

dition was one of indebtedness. A book department was added, which put the Sunday School Board more deeply in debt. The name was changed to Sunday School Association, but this organization was short lived. In 1871 a Sunday School Board was established, with the understanding that "it shall in no case be authorized to impose any pecuniary obligation on the Convention."

In 1871 Mr. John E. Ray was asked to take charge of the affairs of the Sunday School Board, and he succeeded in pulling it out of debt.

In 1887 the Board of Missions and the Sunday School Board were consolidated under its present name, "Board of Missions and Sunday Schools of the Baptist State Convention." In 1891 Rev. M. L. Kesler was elected Sunday School Secretary, but resigned in a few months to enter the pastorate. In 1896 Rev. B. W. Spilman was elected Sunday School Secretary. He carried the work through its darkest days. Dr. Spilman is recognized as one of the foremost Sunday School experts in the country. His successors, in the order of their election, have been T. Neil Johnson, Hight C. Moore, and E. L. Middleton, the present incumbent. At first practically all of the expense of this department was paid out of State Mission funds. Gradually the importance of the work was seen and a better support given to it. In 1909, it became self-sustaining. The Sunday School work has grown in favor, and is now justly regarded